The Track Record

FEBRUARY 2006 SUMMARY #158
EDITOR RAY CROWE

ALBERT OSTMAN KIDNAPPING 1924. Near Toba Inlet, B.C.

THIS,IS LYLE VANN,LONG TIME BIGFOOT RESEARCHER,AND UFOLOGIST.
HOW THIS PHOTO HAPPENED!IS BE ON,VANN,S KNOWLEDGE?BUT!HE FEELS
THE BEING,S,ARE SHOWNING HIM INTO THERE VORTEX WORLD.AND A BIG!
BEING IS LOOKING AT HIM,THROW THE VORTEX DOOR WAY.THIS PHOTO SEEM
TO OF JUST!HAPPENED!VANN MEANS THEM NO!HARM AT ALL,AS,HE SAYS.
"TO SEEK,TO FIND,TO UNDERSTAND. (c)

To, My Friend. Ray Crowe. Din W.B.S. Blessings Lyle Vann

The Track Record

The International Bigfoot Society™ Newsletter
A subsidiary of the Western Bigfoot Society™

Issue 158 February Summary, 2006, $20.00 year (10 issues), $30.00 foreign, post paid. There is no November or December summary, but Specials may be published, 225 NE 30th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124-7055; Phone: (503) 640-6581 Email: RayCrowe@netzero.net , Vice President: Patti Reinhold, 1086 46th Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386 541-367-2359. Other board members: Terry Reams, Keith Ardinger, Diane Demers. The WBS is a tax-exempt, non profit organization, 501(c)3 your tax-deductible donations are appreciated #93-1181554 Copyright Feb 2006 InternationalBigfootSociety.com Domain name.
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*** REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.**

MEETING

Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz. Next meeting will be January 28, 2006. Hope you all had a good holiday season.

MEETING STUFF

The January 28th meeting, the first of the season, was concerned with White Wolf Entertainment's TV documentary for the History Channel, "Giganto-The real King Kong." Tim Moore sent us a copy and we aired it, as most of the members had not seen it yet.

Discussion by myself had to do with my ideas of what and where Bigfoot came from. I suggested it might be a form or Early Man, rather than Gigantopithecus, as is supported by Dr J. Meldrum, Dr. J. Bindernagel, and the late Dr. G. Krantz. The Russians, Prof V. Sapunov, I. Bourgsnev, and D. Bayanov, tend to agree that the creature might be a Neandertal type of being. The French, de Sarre, and O. Decobert even believe that Bigfoot is modeled by an aquatic H. erectus.

The film about Gigantopithecus from the History channel, proved interesting, and had several faces familiar to many of us in the IBS: Dr Jeff Meldrum, Chris Murphy, and Richard Noll...the latter two having been at one time, our guest speakers.

One of the targets of the film was to obtain DNA of Gigantopithecus. Paleoanthropologist Dr. Russsel Ciochon wanted to extract DNA material from ancient Giganto teeth from China collected by Von Kongsingwald in 1935... Dragon Bones to the natives. This failed when it was found the teeth were 300,000 years old and after 130,00 years, the DNA has deteriorated beyond collection.

KEEP YOUR SKEPTICALS ON WHEN READING REPORTS

BIGFOOT REPORTS

*** Some BFRO reports *www.bfro.net***

Shasta Co, CA, near Del Loma. Sept, 2003. Apache (Jicarilla) fire fighter lady is witness at Del Loma Fire in Shasta/Trinity Forest, Northern CA. Fire crew of 20. %-10 miles from fire, near sundown, . Saw big hairy mammal walking along riverside minding its own business, then stopped and looked at crew. Had dark, long hair, about 7 foot, muscular build. Four people saw, ran into woods as more people came from tents. ran with long strides and gone in seconds, pushing tress out of the way without breaking them. Did not scream or yell. About 4-5PM Area of pine trees. Was 25 yards away. Brown in color, hair 5-6 inches long.

*** Aug 14, 2005, British Columbia, Canada, near jasper. Motorhome driver saw 8 foot Sasquatch with primate like face noted between dark hairs. 6:45 AM on clear morning. Witness could not find the camera at hand. Creature was walking down a Hydro cut line, stopped at edge of road on passenger side of motorhome. No protruding snout, arms long and hand reached past the knees. It was dark brown in color.**

*** Oct 8, 2005. near Ludlow, off Tyson Road, Windsor County, Vermont. Off Route 100, heavily wooded, desolate area. Large creature crossed road in two strides,8 feet tall, 50 feet away, Driver and daughter saw creature, short dark hair, heavily built, heard odd vocalizations the day before. It was evening but moon and headlights lit the creature clearly. It turned its head toward th car as it crossed the road, had a pronounced am swing, not as heavily built at Patterson creature, head seemed conical, massive hand.**

*** Jan 5, 2006, Tishominga county, Mississippi, of Natchez Trace Parkway, near Tishomingo, about 50 yards north of mile marker 307, driver saw creature cross road between his car and another oncoming car. It was solid black , 4 1/2-5 feet tall, ran at great speed near sunset, 5PM, and ran into tree line. Stumbled slightly at edge of road, and swung arms to regain balance. Came within 25-30 yards of what he thought at first was a jogger alongside the road. Solid black, illuminated by the sun still in the sky. Head didn't look human, a little raised in the gback and appeared to slope towards the fron. It was stocky with a muscular**

build. Hands appeared to be larger than a human's, and arms proportionally longer than human normal, but had raised arms like human when running.

MISCELANEOUS AND LETTERS

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |

From the Globe & Mail (Toronto): 21 Jan. 2006

The giant hairy beast is out there; By MARK HUME

VANCOUVER -- In the world of sasquatchology nothing is ever certain, except perhaps the faith of those who believe they have seen the great, hairyhominids that legend says stalk the mountains of the Pacific Northwest.

"Oh, they exist all right. I'm convinced of that," says Ken Kristian, a 50-year-old former fishing guide and warehouseman in the Fraser Valley who spends many of his weekends tramping through the rain forest, hoping for a close encounter. Mr. Kristian is one of the founders of a new organization in British Columbia, West Coast Sasquatch, which is working with an international group known as the Sasquatch Research Initiative in an attempt to finally prove that the ape-like animals are real. "Somebody, somewhere is going to get a lucky break one day and prove sasquatch exist," Mr. Kristian said.

"I hope it's us."

Using devices that amplify sound, night-vision goggles, infrared cameras and a detailed analysis of sighting reports to identify behavioral patterns,
the researcher are hoping to be able to finally gather hard evidence that the sasquatch is more than myth. Many before have tried and failed. Over the decades, sasquatch hunters have managed to collect an untold number of big, lumpy plaster casts of footprints. They have made scratchy recordings of eerie sounds echoing through dark woods and have documented hundreds of alleged human encounters, dating back to the early 1900s, most of which have left the witnesses confused, terrified or both. Although some serious researchers have spent their lives trying to prove that the sasquatch is out there, somewhere, nobody has ever come up with irrefutable proof. No bones. No bodies. No definitive DNA from hair samples. As far as science is concerned, the sasquatch is about as real as the bogeyman. Over the years a number of hoaxes, including men in monkey suits and others stamping through the bush with plywood cutouts of oversize feet, have overshadowed the credible encounters. And with the deaths in recent years of legendary sasquatch hunters like René Dahinden, the world's best known sasquatch researcher, and Bob Titmus, who spent four decades trying to track the elusive creature, the hunt has lost momentum. Now, the new wave of sasquatch hunters is reviving the effort.

Mr. Kristian knows about all the failures of the past but he still thinks he and his colleagues at West Coast Sasquatch -- Gerry Matthews, Sebastian Wang and Thomas Steenburg -- might succeed where others didn't.

"We'll use a lot of different approaches," he said. "A lot of the old guys had set ideas about what a sasquatch is and what it does. We've got some new ideas. . ."I think there are certain patterns to their behavior that emerge when you analyze all the years of reports. I've found you can judge why they may be in certain areas at certain times." Mr. Kristian, who said he didn't want to discuss his theories in detail for fear others might try to get the jump on him, believes he has identified some areas in British Columbia where sasquatch go in the winter to feed. He has found footprints and recently got a tape of sasquatch calls recorded by a retired couple who, frightened out of their wits by odd howling in the woods, put their video camera outside the back door on a garbage can. "It's the first sound recording of a sasquatch call ever made in B.C.," Mr. Kristian said.

The sound they got, while barely discernible in the static hiss, is a distant whooping noise that doesn't sound like anything human. "I think it's the real thing," said Mr. Kristian, who in the past has interviewed campers who've heard a similar sound. He has posted the sound and a wealth of other material, including accounts from those who say they have seen a sasquatch, on the Web at: http://www.westcoast-sasquatch.com.

One of those who gave a report is Brad Hay, who became a true believer during a prospecting trip a few summers ago. In a rugged area known as Spindle Creek, in the Lower Mainland, he had a close encounter with a large, hairy creature that made sounds "like something played through a tape recorder in reverse." In an interview, Mr. Hay said he and a friend were hiking along a creek, in an area without roads northeast of Vancouver, when they saw the animal stooped over a pool, apparently scooping salmon fry out of the water to eat. "I thought it was a raggedy old bear at first. But when it stood up I thought, holy crap. Then it started making this sound and chills just ran through me. It freaked the hell out of us."

Mr. Hay said he and his friend ran one way and the creature, which they believe was a sasquatch, ran the other. Asked whether he could have seen a bear standing on its hind legs, he insisted: "Oh no. This was no bear. . . . It had hands." He described the animal as being "very muscular" and between six and seven feet (about two meters) in height. It ran upright on its hind legs in a "quick jaunt" and gave off a smell that nearly choked them. (A strong, pungent smell is so closely associated with sasquatch sightings that in some places the mythological creatures are called skunk apes.)

Mr. Hay said that when they got back to their boat, moored at the mouth of the remote creek, they looked at each other in disbelief for a few moments. "I said to him, 'I don't know what you think you saw, but I know what I saw,' " Mr. Hay recalled. "We discussed whether we should report it or not. We were afraid people would think we were crazy." Mr. Hay is certain he saw a sasquatch. "I really don't care what people think," he added. "I saw what I saw. And I can tell you, I'll never go back in there without a gun."

The sasquatch myth, which can be traced to oral legends among native tribes in the Pacific Northwest, persists largely because of incidental reports
like the one made by Mr. Hay. Mr. Kristian said that while many reports are suspect, Mr. Hay's account has the ring of truth to it. "This is pretty exciting. He's a guy that knows the bush and he's not going to see a black bear and mistake it for a sasquatch." This weekend, Mr. Kristian and his partners from West Coast Sasquatch will
be out along the Harrison River, hoping to see, or hear, a sasquatch. "Hopefully, if we encounter something, we can get it on film and prove it," Mr. Kristian said.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>

Newsweek International online: A Real-Life Jurassic Park; By resurrecting the woolly mammoth and other species, scientists want to restore nature's balance. By Mac Margolis Jan. 30, 2006 issue.

For the first 3.5 million years or so, woolly mammoths had it pretty easy. Standing more than three meters tall and weighing seven tons, they dwarfed the rest of the animal kingdom. That allowed them to graze or gambol or make more woolly mammoths without any predators to worry about. Then their luck began to sour about 20,000 years ago. Humans showed up in the Eurasian plain and, a few millenniums later, in North America, wielding high-tech weapons of carved bone and stone. Soon the regal Elephantidae were on the run from Siberia to Saskatchewan. Most scholars now agree that hunters-more than climate change or a mystery epidemic-are what doomed the mammoths. Whatever the cause, by 11,000 years ago the king of the Pleistocene was a goner.

Or so it seemed. If a group of devotees has its way, this shaggy ice-age mascot-and a host of other bygone megafauna besides-may yet walk again. Last month, writing in the journal Science, zoologist Alexei Tikhonov of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Ross MacPhee of the American Museum of Natural History announced that they had decoded 13 million base pairs of DNA extracted from the jawbone of a frozen mammoth that died 28,000 years ago on the Siberian steppe. The scientists, in other words, had managed to assemble half the woolly-mammoth genome; they claimed that in three years they could finish the job. That would put scientists within striking distance of aneven greater feat: repopulating the earth with creatures that vanished ages ago.

Genetic wizards have already cloned sheep, monkeys, pigs and cats. But resurrecting millennial beasts like the mammoth or giant armadillo is far trickier. Although many experts scoff at the idea of using science to "restart evolution" through cloning extinct animals, the prospect has sent waves of excitement through biotech labs around the world. "This is the greatest symbol of the Pleistocene era," says Larry Agenbroad, a woolly-mammoth expert at the University of Northern Arizona.

For all its charisma, the mammoth is just part of a grand new strategy to restore long-gone megafauna. Scientists call it rewilding. The idea goes hand in hand with new thinking about the relationship between humans and nature-namely, that even the earliest civilizations had what we might think of as an unnatural impact on the natural world around them. Some scientists estimate that the early hunters of the Pleistocene killed off the mammoths and scores of other giant mammals in the Americas in roughly 20 generations-a tick on the evolutionary clock.

"When our species goes into a Garden of Eden, things change," says veteran U.S. paleoecologist Paul S. Martin, who pioneered the idea of hunter "overkill" four decades ago. The strategy calls for repopulating the earth with bygone or endangered species as the best way to repair an environment that is out of kilter, and to prevent even more animals from dying out. Proponents hope advances in genetic engineering, including cloning and hybrid breeding, could finally allow their dream to come true.

One research team is already trying to bring back the bucardo, a Spanish goat that disappeared five years ago, and an Australian team is studying a way to clone the extinct Tasmanian tiger. In Ireland, where some 9,000 bird species have been lost, scientists are considering reintroducing flightless rails, which are heading for extinction worldwide. Perhaps the most ambitious effort is underway in Siberia, where scientists led by Sergey Zimov are trying to transform a vast swath (16,000 square kilometers) of chilly marshlands in the Yukutia region into the grasslands and dry forests that flourished during the last ice age. Then they plan to let loose long-absent musk oxen, aurochs, elk, wolves and one day maybe even the resurrected woolly mammoth.

Zimov calls this Pleistocene Park. Bringing back the ghosts of the Pleistocene would be rewilding's biggest prize but also its biggest challenge. Since DNA falls apart over time, even in the deep freeze of Russia's permafrost, some scientists despair of ever finding enough unbroken mammoth cells to produce a clone. Sperm cells are hardier, and if mammoth semen could be retrieved from the tundra it could be used to impregnate a female elephant (her offspring would be half-breeds). With the mammoth genome at hand, geneticists now speak of creating a transgenic mammoth by removing the nucleus of an egg from, say, an elephant and replacing it with mammoth DNA. Herds of skeptics abound, not least those who object on safety grounds. Would resurrected species trample the suburbs? Rewilding experts say animals would be contained in national parks. Would they bring new viruses? The risk is small but can't be discounted. The notion of reshaping the wilderness may face an uphill climb to public acceptance. In the end, there may be little choice. By failing to intervene, scientists say, we could be unwittingly giving a hand to evolution's hardiest predators: weeds and pests. "Nowhere is pristine anymore," says Cornell University ecologist Joshua Donlan, one of rewilding's leading architects. "In the future, almost every eco-system everywhere is going to be managed. Either we do it by design or default." Rewilding may not resurrect a storybook lost world. But it may help us reimagine the future.

* Jane Derry <derryj@grics.net>

I thought you might be interested in looking at this. It says how long Bigfoot has been on earth. (Itan) I got this in the mail today, from someone who doesn't know I'm interested in BF/Itan beings. She's totally into 'aliens', so this is interesting in that respect to me. Tianca A pre-human civilization - Source: THE RA MATERIAL/THE LAW OF ONE; 23 Jan 2006 http://www.llresearch.org/) Courtesy of Universa-vision.com site

705,000 BP -- Extensive Maldek Wars (creates Maldek soul's metaphysical-astral -- knot of fear)

600,000 BP -- Confederation spiritual healing of Maldek population souls on inner 3D planes

500,000 BP -- Destruction of 3D Maldek (current "asteroid belt"), soul-transfer to Earth (Bigfoot)

Earth hosting only 2D life (mineral, plant, animal kingdoms); no native 3D human soul-groups

Eventually, highest 2D animal groups become bi-pedal 3D homo Sapiens (become ensouled)

B. EARLY HUMAN CIVILIZATION (75,000 - 25,000 BP)

75,000 BP -- Final destruction of Mars civilization / atmosphere, soul-transfer into 3D Earth bodies

Beginning of human civilization / Earth 3D evolution: 50% Martian, 25% native, 25% other 3D

Confederation / Yahweh aid to Martian souls (genetic cloning to sharpen senses/strengthen mind)

Light-Quarantine intensified around Earth (re. Yahweh action) / Human life-span -- 900 years

60,000 BP -- Orion group influence: (a) telepathic contact / (b) power-charged stone-formations in Central America/Pacific Oceana (Nazca, Easter Island; unsuccessful attempt, no negativity achieved)

58,000 BP -- Confederation initial direct aid to early Lemurian/Mu civilization (prolonged contact)

53,000 BP -- Lemurian civilization fully established (primitive group-mentality, spiritually advanced)

Later destroyed by Earth tectonic-plate readjustment / flooding; survivors, Russia, North / South America (current indigenous' groups; originally from 2D Deneb star planet)

50,000 BP -- END OF 3D MAJOR CYCLE I / No harvest of Earth 3D souls; life-span -- 700 years

46,000 BP -- Spiritual calling from Earth Maldek souls (Bigfoot) Confederation aid (love/light)

31,000 BP -- Atlantean civilization begins development (slow-growing, agrarian, conglomerate)

25,000 BP -- END OF 3D MAJOR CYCLE II / No harvest; life-span 35-100 years. (pop. -- 345,000)

S. American group (Elder Race; pop. 150; life-span 900 years.) all 4D+ harvestable yet remain in 3D human bodies (world service)

C. LATER HUMAN CIVILIZATION (18,000 - 2,300 BP)

18,000 BP -- RA contact w/Egyptians (crystal-powered bell-shaped craft); UFO-sightings only

15,000 BP -- Beginning of rapid, intensified Atlantean technological development in society

13,000 BP -- Confederation aid to Atlantis (pyramids, crystals, healing); life-span greatly reduced

Initial usage of intelligent energy for negative polarization (cloning for genetic superiority)

11,000 BP -- RA contact w/Egyptians (direct landings for teaching Law of One); meaning distorted

First major Atlantean wars, approx. 40% population death, partial migration to North Africa

10,840 BP -- Final destruction of Atlantis by nuclear/crystal-energy warfare, civilization ends

Triple migration to safe, mountainous regions: Tibet, Peru, Turkey: root of mystery schools

9,600 BP -- Final Earth Changes and sinking of Atlantean land-masses; direct result of warfare

8,500 BP -- RA enters/returns to Earth inner planes, begins thought-construction of Great Pyramid

7,500 BP -- Confederation aid to S. America: Amazon landings/teaching, pyramids/hidden cities

6,000 BP -- Great Pyramid completed (by RA/thought, instant appearance); Ikhnaton contacted

4,500 BP -- Additional pyramids constructed from physical, Earth - based materials

Orion distorts previous Yahweh intervention (builds upon elite-group biases); replaces/co-opts Yahweh telepathic contact (sends negative philosophy to Hebrews); reveals itself as UFO/fiery cloud (suggest "wrathful God" philosophy).

Confederation/Yahweh sexual/genetic intervention: strengthening Anak-group physical bodies

3,000 BP -- Orion group leaves Earth 3D skies; Confederation completes S. America aid / contact

Armageddon 4D "thought-war" of light continues/intensifies (reduces 3D negative influence)

2,600 BP -- Greek calling, Confederation aid leads to + philosophy (Heraclitus, Thales, Pericles)

2,300 BP -- Confederation aid to Egypt only (telepathic contact, love/light)

D. MODERN TIMES (1700 - 2000 AD)

1784 AD -- Increased influx of harvestable 3D souls and Wanderers, increased Confederation aid

Primarily telepathic info, love/light sent; no major UFO landings or direct contact-teaching

Positive free will philosophy (freedom, liberty, justice, democracy, human rights) developed; most teaching expresses 4D+ quality (love/compassion); Wanderers include B. Franklin, T. Jefferson

1945 AD -- Increased Confederation UFO thought-form appearance, coincides w/ nuclear age

Confederation aid to humans killed in Hiroshima/Nagasaki atomic blasts (spirit-complex healing)

Increased influx of Wanderers and 4D+ "double-bodied" children to assist Harvest/New Age

2010 - 2013 AD -- Final Earth 3D-cycle Harvest: planetary Logos/surface humanity fully 4D+

All Earth Changes complete; all electro-magnetic planetary grids readjusted; humanity 4D+ only; major influx expected of additional inter-galactic 4D+ ETs for planet-balance / support

Slow development of telepathic group interplay, Earth acceptance into local ET Confederation

-- A Summary of Themes: ET-Earth History --

Cosmic Polarity: Engine of evolution; freely chosen result of veiled 3D experience; no mistakes

Human History: Galactic drama of polarity between light and darkness, 2 players upon 2 paths

Armageddon: On-going struggle of love vs. control; as above so below; outer vs. inner history

Wanderers' Role: Visiting light-bringers; non-agenda world service in love and free will

Global Strife: Result of negatively-polarized leadership atop non-polarized social masses

The Road Ahead: Reading future from past; all players prepare for Harvest; intensified polarity

Beyond Confusion: Finding implicit order in outer chaos; impact of free will w/ infinite choice

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From the New Straits Times (Malaysia) 25 Jan. 2006 Bigfoot near Gunung Panti?

JOHOR BARU, Mon. - The discovery of several huge footprints by a villager in Panti has caused a flurry of excitement among Bigfoot believers.

The 50cm-long footprints (inset, picture above) caused by a single creature that had apparently walked out of a muddy stretch of the jungle area, were found on a recently-tarred road leading to smallholdings located at the foot of Gunung Panti.

Bio-dioversity researcher Vincent Chow, who yesterday led a team of eight Bigfoot enthusiasts, including a

professional from England, to investigate the footprints, said there was a strong possibility they were made by a Bigfoot creature.

"We traced the footprints up a hill and found more footprints on the muddy floor of the jungle. However, recent heavy rains have smudged the outline of the footprints. "From their depth, we can judge that the creature which made them could have been about four times a man's weight." Chow said the manner in which the creature had traversed the jungle was humanlike.

"Except for a few broken twigs, there was no damage to the plants as the creature seemed to have followed the jungle path carefully, even ducking below thorny creepers. Had an elephant passed through the area, there would have been extensive damage to the vegetation."

Chow said he interviewed a villager who stated he was convinced that some creature had been prowling around the Kampung Temenim Lama area in Panti.

The villager said he heard pots and pans being moved about in his kitchen at the back of the house one night.

He was too scared to check the disturbances then, but in the morning he found the pots turned upside down and the rice spilt.

Meanwhile, a 68-year-old tanker lorry driver claimed he had a close encounter with a Bigfoot family in the 1990s on the Masai-Kong Kong road. P. Palaniandy said he had left for Kulai after filling up his tanker with crude palm oil at a depot in Kong Kong about 8.30am. "Just as I was going up a slope, I saw the creatures crossing the road in single file. "They were going from the Masai side of the jungle to the Kong Kong side."

He said the creatures were between five feet and seven feet tall and heavily built. The long arms of the biggest creature were as thick as a man's thigh.

Palaniandy said he slowed down and was about five metres away from the creatures when they walked into the jungle. He said they had thick foreheads, bushy raised eyebrows, large protruding jaws, big hair-covered ears, raised chests and large protruding buttocks.

The creatures did not turn to look at him.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |
From Berlita Wilayah (Malaysia): 26 Jan. 2006
Southern Region News; Teams To Track Bigfoot

JOHOR BAHARU, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- The state government will set up two expedition teams to track "bigfoot", the hairy creature allegedly seen in the forests of Johor. Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the teams would be led by experts who would conduct a study on various aspects of the creature as well as to explore the state forest. He said the expedition to track the creature would be carried out in stages with the cooperation of the Johor National Park Corporation (JNPC). "One team will explore the forest areas while the other to study the existence of the creature," he told reporters after chairing the weekly state exco meeting at the Sultan Ibrahim building, here Wednesday.

Abdul Ghani said the vast forest area of the state, including the Endau-Rompin National Park and at Kota Tinggi, should be explored to obtain scientific evidence on the existence of the creature. "We have obtained description of the creature from those who claimed to Have seen it ... we hope the expedition will be able to prove its existence," he added.

There have been claims of the creature been seen in the forests of Tanjung Piai, Mersing, Kahang, Endau-Rompin National Park and Kota Tinggi. Three workers at a fish pond in Kampung Mawai, Kota Tinggi claimed to have seen a "bigfoot" family last November.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |
From the Associated Press: Arsenal Chief: 'Intruders' Likely Wildlife; By DANIEL CONNOLLY; Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) -- A guard who reported a security breach inside the nation's second-largest chemical weapons depot may have mistaken wildlife for human intruders, authorities said Thursday. The commander of the Pine Bluff Arsenal said officials combed the area but found no footprints or other evidence of human intruders. "There's no doubt in my mind that the officer saw something, but it wasn't human," Col. Brian S. Lindamood said. "At this time I have no idea what it could be." Lindamood said the officer was patrolling inside a 500-acre secure section of the arsenal where chemical weapons, including nerve agents, are stored. "He reported that he saw three individuals on foot inside the (secure area) and when he approached in his vehicle they ran into the woods," he said. Lindamood said the guard was between 70 and 165 feet away at the time and the area was brightly lit. The guard won't face any disciplinary measures. "In fact, he was commended for the promptness of his report, for the detail contained in his report, and for his diligence in following up until his backup arrived," Lindamood said. The 13,000-acre Army complex, located a half-hour south of Little Rock, began destroying its chemical weapons stockpile in March to comply with international treaties.

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From WebIndia123.com: 28 Jan. 2006
Singapore team told to delay search for 'Bigfoot'

A team from Singapore has been told to postpone its expedition to search for a purported "Bigfoot" creature in the Johor forests of Malaysia, news reports said Saturday. The Singapore Paranormal Investigators (SPI) told The Straits Times that Malaysian authorities requested that they delay the Jan 21 trip to hunt for a large, ape-like beast. The team of 20 planned to inspect footprints and bite marks on fruits to solve the mystery reported since November in the Malaysia media. Three creatures, two of which were three meters tall, are claimed to have been spotted. A trail of 50-centimetre-long footprints was discovered recently in Panti. Experts do not dismiss the possibility that such creatures exist, but most consider it improbable.

Toh Seong Fai, SPI vice-president, said that the most widely accepted theory is that Bigfoot is a descendant of the giant primate species, Gigantopithecus blacki. Remains of this animal found in Vietnam and China date back between 100,000 and two million years ago.

Similar sightings have been reported in wilderness areas around the world, including the so-called bigfoot in North America, the Yeti in Tibet and the Yowie in Australia. Toh told the newspaper the theory that Bigfoot could be the evolutionary "missing link" between ape and man is

not so far-fetched. Many experts consider the possibility of Bigfoot's existence unlikely. Research has shown that only large populations of animals can reproduce and sustain themselves as a species, said Associate Professor Rudolf Meier, a biological sciences expert at the National University of Singapore. Others are hopeful.

"I would love it to be scientifically true," Bernard Harrison, former chief of Wildlife Reserves Singapore, was quoted as saying.- DPA

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From The Telegraph (London): 30 January 2006; Malaysia launches hunt for 'Bigfoot' apeman after sightings in rainforest By Jan McGirk in Bangkok

The Malaysian state of Johor is organising an official search for one of its most famous and elusive inhabitants: the legendary apeman Bigfoot. Local authorities are planning to allow scientists to set camera traps deep in the rainforests in an attempt to verify recent purported sightings, which enthusiasts claim prove the existence of the fabled primate.

The hairy hominids are known by a variety of names around the world: bigfoot, sasquatch, yeti or the abominable snowman. But Malaysia, where tribal people call the creatures siamang, mawas, or hantu jarang gigi, ("snaggle-toothed ghost"), will be the first country openly to endorse an official attempt to track them down.
Johor's chief minister, Abdul Ghani Othman, said the state was prompted to seek physical evidence of the animals after a spate of sightings late last year, when an outsized footprint found in the mud at one wildlife reserve - measuring 45cm, equivalent to a man's size 20 shoe - and broken branches overhead suggested that, if the animal reared up on its hind legs, it would measure between 8 and 10ft tall. Malaysia has been gripped by Bigfoot fever since November when, just weeks before the release of Peter Jackson's epic King Kong in Kuala Lumpur's cinemas, three laborers digging a fish pond said they glimpsed a Bigfoot family of three on a river bank in Kota Tinggi reserve. They dropped their tools and fled but returned with an educated colleague to inspect and photograph the enormous footprints. A clump of brown fur, drenched with sour-smelling sweat, was also said to be recovered from the site, along with scattered fish bones.

Last August, a frog catcher from the Orang Asli tribe claimed he encountered an auburn-haired tropical yeti scratching itself on a tree. Hamid Mohd Ali, 31, stopped about 30ft short of the creature which was twice his height. "I could see its teeth but I did not wait to find out if it was smiling at me or whether it saw me as its meal," he said. "In this year alone, four villagers have claimed to have seen it and we think this is because of the shrinking jungle."

And while the Johor authorities have, unsurprisingly, been accused of hyping the Bigfoot mystery in a bid to entice wealthy eco-tourists from abroad, the theories are backed by some wildlife experts. Jane Goodall, one of the world's most distinguished primatologists, is an unashamed Bigfoot and yeti enthusiast. "You'll be amazed when I tell you that I'm sure that they exist," she said in one interview. "The existence of hominids of this sort is a very real probability." The Malaysian state of Johor is organising an official search for one of its most famous and elusive inhabitants: the legendary apeman Bigfoot.

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* debbie hycha" <debhycha@hotmail.com> |

; Feb 03, 2006, possible UFOs seen; Hi Ray,

I had a super weird thing happen to me last night! I was walking in the dark heading up the hill here about 7:30 pm. I looked up at the sky. It was foggy and dark and cloudy. All of a sudden this big orange round thing zipped across the sky, not too far up really. Maybe about the height a plane would fly? Then just as that happened a second ball followed it? They left a little streak behind them, just for a spit second? They disappeared instantly! I was startled and got my boyfriend to walk me to the house. He didnt see it and there were no more after those two? They made no noise. It wasn't a plane and you couldn't see any stars out. It was so bright like fire colored, but round in shape?

I looked up fire balls on the net but nothing described what I saw. Any suggestions what it might have been or a good site that might give me some idea? It was pretty creepy! my boyfriend thinks I am making it up? Just looks at me like I am weird? Thanks Deb

Continued: Feb 03, 2006

Hi again!

NO NOT PLANES at all! They followed each other. One disappeared and immediately the next one followed in suit?

Straight behind as soon as the other one disappeared? But it was so fast it faster than lighting? Faster than if you blink your eye fast? I only had time to think " WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT!!" I waited a bit for more than got scared! My dog acted up a bit too. He usually walks up the hill with me but he was kind of huddled by the front door way ahead of me? Glad my boyfriend walked me up. We live in a silent area, pitch black at night and quiet when there isn't a train or a semi going by on the highway...Just freaky! Now I don't think I am lucky at all.

I do believe in Aliens, so was more scared that they know I believe and come pay me a visit? I didn't sleep well last night. My boyfriends Uncle is pretty weird but he insists he was abducted quite a few times in his life? Last time he was at the house (second time I met him) he wouldn't look at me in the eyes?

Maybe the Aliens he was abducted by know he comes to the house here sometimes? HA! Its a thought, they would know I blieved they exist. Actually on Art Bell last night on caller called in and Aliens had implanted pieces of metal in his body. He sounded pretty stressed about it. He was hesitant to talk about it. he said he got really upset about a piece in his hand one day and his friend was watching him. He took a knife and cut open his hand. took the metal out and they looked at it. the metal flew back in his hand on its own? who really knows?

All know is what I saw was no plane, helicopter, jet...Not flying at that speed! and they were big round balls fire colored. they left a split second tail behind as they whizzed by. It was really weird and i hope they don't come back. I guess it was as fast as if you took a flashlight and swung your hand down quick in the dark. Not a sound and this place here is very quiet at night.. also the clouds were very low and because of all this rain here it is foggy at night. These light balls were below the fog and clouds? hmmm! I think I will look up orbs now? thanks...Deb
(any comment readers?)

* Judy, Gaelicbell@aol.

In a message dated 2/3/2006 12:20:06 AM Pacific Standard Time, eyeofnewt@att.net writes: A white Alsatian dog, mistaken for a wolf or hyena when spotted roaming the countryside near Port Talbot, has been put up for adoption by a dogs' home.
---This is interesting to me because when I was a child, we lived in eastern Oregon and my grandmother had a pure white collie. As she was moving from her home into an apartment, she had to find a new home for him and was lucky enough to find a family who lived on a farm that offered to give him a good home. Soon, thereafter, the farmers began to hear stories of a white ghost coyote running with a pack. As it turned out, Komo had run away from the farm and joined a pack of coyotes and it was not a ghost at all. Judy
(any comments readers?)

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net From Awareness Times (Freetown, Sierra Leone): 3 Feb. 2006 Mysterious Baboon killed in Pujehun in Sierra Leone; By Vidal Boltman

Awareness Times has been authoritatively informed at a usual police weekly press briefing that a fierce looking baboon which has been terrorizing some parts of Pujehun has been killed in a joint operation of the police and youths in the township, on 29th January 2006. It could be noted that a few weeks ago, there were reports that a mysterious baboon was causing havoc in the Kpanga Kabonde chiefdom in the Pujehun district. According to police sources, the mysterious animal was notorious for terrorizing women and children, thus making the entire population to live in perpetual fear. Accordingly, the strange beast attacked and inflicted serious bodily harm on a number of people, some of whom taken for emergency treatment. The killing of the said animal came as welcomed news to the entire inhabitants of the chiefdom.

Amidst jubilation, some of the inhabitants expressed the view that they can now sleep in peace as their tormentor had been killed. Some even had the view that the animal was not ordinary. It could be noted that only three months ago, a similar strange animal was reported to have been killed in the Koinadugu district, after killing a number of people and cows.

* INVISIBLE BIGFOOT ATTACK; Jan 27, 2006

There is a place in Smith Mills, Henderson Co. KY, called Burbanks Lake, also known locally as 'Spook Hill'. As you might guess by the name, down thru the years it has garnered a reputation for being haunted. I believe it to be a 'window' location as many inexplicable experiences have taken place in this area, including various crypt id sightings like bf, water monsters, giant birds and black panthers. UFO activity is not uncommon here, and there are many ghost stories associated with Spook Hill as well. Lending to this is the fact that there are 2 very old cemeteries to be found, long since reclaimed by the forest, at the hills top. Also situated there between the main cemetery and the slave cemetery, are 3 ancient lakes. One is fairly big and deep and all were rumored to contain monster bass. All the male members of my family have always been avid fishermen and, one day back in the summer of 1987, we decided to go and fish there. This was totally against our dad's better judgment. He had lived near the area when he was younger and had been personally warned by Mr. Burbank never to let dark catch him there. He never said why. Also, my older half brother had told us a scary story about a time he and a brother-n-law had went night fishing there in a boat a few years before. He claimed that, every time the two tried to land the boat and come ashore to leave, the woods would erupt with the sound of breaking branches and heavy footsteps at the point which they were heading the boat for, forcing them to shove back out into the middle of the lake. Every attempt to leave the lake was met by this resistance, which frightened them both, and they were forced to spend the entire night in the boat far away from shore. Only when dawn broke were the two 'allowed' to leave, which they did in all haste, never to return. This intrigued me to no end, green as I was back then, but the lure of trophy bass enticed us all. We arrived at the lake in the early afternoon and headed thru the trees down to the water. We had been able to procure a one man bass boat with a small trolling motor from a friend. It could hold two people-but barely. As there were 6 of us, four brothers and two friends, this meant that four of us would be confined to fishing the banks. We found the place to be absolutely

teeming with water moccasins and not one of us had brought a weapon of any type, only fishing poles. Since everyone wanted to fish the other side of the lake we opted to be ferried across instead of trying to walk thru the grass and trying to avoid a possible snake bite. It took forever for the little motor to chug everyone across the lake. By the time we were there it was late afternoon. We fished awhile without much luck. Before we knew it darkness was fast approaching. My older brother began to ferry everyone back across one at a time. This took around 30-40 minutes round trip, with five trips to be made. Complete darkness fell with just my younger brother and myself remaining on the far side of the lake. We had half a gal. of kerosene and had earlier gathered what wood we could find, which was mostly wet since it had rained there a couple of days previously, and used it to build a small fire. We were sitting there bemoaning so much trouble for nothing when the sound of breaking branches and heavy footsteps erupted from the woods in front of us. It was a terrifyingly loud commotion and we jumped up in fright. I have never before or since, been so terrified by any type of sound. It was ,looking back, totally unlike me to react in such a manner. Perhaps it was because, at the first limb fracture, we BOTH knew immediately what was out there in the darkness of the haunted woods. Worse, the sounds soon began to come from behind us and to our right as well, and they were getting closer. We heard no grunts. No growls. No breathing . Just the heavy footfalls and the terrific explosions of tree limbs all around. We thought we were both going to die that night, without a doubt. We could see nothing as it was quite dark. No moon and heavy cloud cover. When the sounds got quite close I threw some kerosene into the fire, determined to at least see what was about to eat us. The kero ignited and the fire flared up, illuminating an area of about 25 ft. in all directions. We could see nothing. The light would only last for a few seconds then subside and plunge our surroundings back into utter darkness. When this happened the sounds would approach us again. Over and over I threw the fuel into the shrinking fire, washing the woods in sudden firelight. We never did see a thing. Not even a single eye-shine. The kerosene didn't last long. We had been yelling and making a good sized noise of our own, to no avail. It seemed that only the light was holding our would be attackers at bay. But the fire was fading fast. Soon it was reduced to a tiny flame at one end of a small, wet branch-and the noises were closing in. I picked it up and held it up in front of me as we walked backwards down towards the waters edge. I told my brother to get ready to swim for his life. The noises followed us down to the lake, amazingly, even thou this area had very few trees! It sounded like invisible branches were being broken by invisible beings. Lucky for us, just as we were about to get wet, we heard the sound of our brother on the boat shouting his approach. We yelled for him to hurry. When he reached us we were in a state of agitation, to say the least. He wanted to know who was next. Well, to put it simply, we found out a one man boat can carry three people in an emergency.

* THE SPOTTSVILLE MONSTER
Spottsville, Ky., Henderson Co., 1975

The Nunnelly family moved into a small, isolated farmhouse very close to the banks of the Green River. They didn't realize that for the next 11 months they would be terrorized by a giant, hairy, red-eyed creature that would come to be known as 'The Spottsville Monster'. Even though they were warned by the previous renter, who reluctantly told Mr. and Mrs. Nunnelly that one day he had fired several rifle shots through the back screen door at a large 'hairy feller' who was standing just outside looking in at him, Red, the father, was a tough, intelligent, no nonsense type fellow who was not easily scared by anything. He felt a .12 gauge shotgun would take care of any such 'problems' that might arise. Besides, they had already had a run-in or two with what the kids called 'The Brown Man' a few years previously across the river in Reed. It ran when seen of fired at and eventually left them alone. The Nunnelly's new house on Mound Ridge Rd. seemed perfect at first. The property contained many types of fruit and berry trees and Red planned to raise several acres of tobacco come spring. Rose, his wife, looked forward to raising a big vegetable garden. The six kids could play in the big yard or artifact hunt in the fields along the front and sides of the house. That spring started out well despite the steady disappearance of their chickens, which was attributed to weasels and such. The older boys, aged 9 and 10, began to find the carcasses of dead dogs in the fields when they were out looking for Indian arrow-heads. The bodies were strangely mutilated, being sliced from groin to gullet with all the internal organs removed including the eyes and tongues. No blood or footprints could be seen around these grisly discoveries, even though most were found in open, well cultivated fields. Also strange was the fact that no scavenger would eat of the remains. Not even a fly would land on them to lay its eggs. Before the episode was finally over in Jan.,1976 the family would lose a total of over 200 chickens,1 goat,1 horse and would find the remains of 8 dogs, a pig, and a goat-all mutilated. One day Red and Rose heard what sounded like something big drinking water from the small creek within the forest behind the house. By the sound of the loud 'gulping' noises it was making it was at least as big as a horse or cow. At night they began to hear strange noises coming from outside in the surrounding fields, some of which contained swampy ponds and thick growths of trees, and from the woods behind the house. Sometimes it would be close by, sometimes far away. The two vicious and highly treasured guard dogs the family owned could be heard bumping their heads on the floorboards as they scurried beneath the house in fear of whatever was making the sounds. This caused Red much concern. As a precaution, when his older son Harold began the remodeling, Red invited him and his family to move their trailer out and set it beside the house. As he was suffering from Glaucoma and steadily losing his eyesight, he felt that his family would be safer with another grown man who could shoot a gun on hand if need arose. He could also help with raising the tobacco. They moved the trailer in soon after and placed it very close to the house under his father's direction. One day a stranger came walking from the far tree line across one of the side fields. He was holding a shotgun, broken down, and walking towards the house, his other hand up in the air in a friendly gesture. It took both the adults to finally calm down the dogs when the stranger approached and introduced himself as a neighbor who lived less than a half mile back

up the road. He stated that he had just been squirrel hunting in the nearby woods and had scared up something big and hairy that ran away on its hind legs. As it was heading in this direction and he had not the slightest idea what the animal could be or how dangerous it might be, he felt it was his Christian duty to come warn the family about the event. Red liked this man immediately and invited him back for coffee when he had the chance. The two became great friends and this new acquaintance would play a pivotal role in the drama that was about to unfold. The first sighting by the Nunnelly's happened around 8 o'clock one evening when Rose stepped onto the front porch to call Harold and his wife and 3 children over for a late supper. They had been working in the fields all day. She looked to her left and saw a giant, hairy shadow at least 8 feet tall standing in the darkness by a nearby shed looking at her. She screamed like a panther, then ran back inside and locked the door. Harold rushed over holding his rifle, Red grabbed the shotgun. Shaking, Rose called the police. After briefly looking around close to the house and finding nothing the State Police left, most probably laughing at the crazy story of the giant monster. But they would be back several more times as events escalated into an almost nightly visitation by the creature. Eventually, even though it was later learned that similar sightings were taking place all along the river in towns such as Bluff City and Hebbardsville, the police refused to respond to any more 'monster' calls and the family was left to defend themselves. Rose saw it again at dusk as it ran from a field by the garden area and jumped an old fence-row. It chased Red and one of the dogs out of a tobacco field that he was tending alone one day. Dean, age 10 had a close encounter as well. He was standing in the front yard one day trying to take some garden hoes away from a couple of the younger girls when he heard a tremendous crashing through the trees out back, followed by a complete and unsettling quiet that came over the entire area. He looked and saw the thing standing in a small gully by an old truck. He described it as being huge and tall, with a square jaw and small, close set eyes. It was covered in reddish gray hair, thin and patchy in spots as if it was very old. All of the children saw it one morning standing in a corn field out front. It towered above the full grown corn and seemed to sway slightly from side to side as it stood. By this time the local T. V. news had heard of the events from the police band radio and sent a camera crew and police sketch artist out to the place. The artist drew a hairy, man-like animal with no face(?) and a segment about the family was featured on the evening news. The next day a crew of reporters from the local newspaper descended on the Nunnelly farm to get the scoop. The morning edition of The Gleaner dubbed the beast 'The Spottsville Monster' and the accompanying article treated the sighting fairly, despite some misquotes such as calling the monster 'green' and misnaming the name of the road on which the family lived. Ironically, this sent the crowds of gun-toting 'monster hunters' which descended on Spottsville to everywhere but the correct location. Meanwhile, the neighbor from down the road agreed to try and track the monster down for the sake of the safety of the Nunnelly children. He encountered it one day at an old, abandoned house far back in the woods. It was stooping down looking out the window out at him. The man fired on it and in the same instant, he said later, it vanished before his eyes. Shaken by the sighting he went home. He did not give up however and eventually claimed to have found trace evidence in the form of hair, a claw and a plaster cast of a partial footprint left in near frozen ground. The print, though incomplete was impressive and showed the clear impression left by a large, four-toed foot. When the news coverage began Red referred the reporters up to talk to the neighbor, which they did. His name appeared in print and he, like the Nunnelly family, suffered through intense public ridicule. The children were endlessly taunted at school, the neighbor at work in a nearby fire department. The events finally came to a conclusion, for them at least, when the neighbor told Mr. Nunnelly about a bizarre encounter with the creature he had experienced a couple of weeks prior, followed by a short stay in the hospital. He had been looking for the thing one day, he said, when it started to rain. He was walking a tree line at the time and there was a nearby, long abandoned old barn into which he went seeking shelter from the rain. Little did he know the creature was also inside. He stood only for a moment at one end of the open ended barn, when suddenly the feeling that he wasn't alone washed over him. He slowly turned around and found himself staring into a huge, hairy mid section. He stood well over six feet tall but he had to look almost straight up to see the creatures' face. It was horrible and deeply terrifying with a short muzzle, long pointed fangs set into both its upper and lower jaws, black skin and strange red eyes that chilled and frightened him to his very soul. He reached for the rifle strapped on his shoulder but suddenly found himself unable to move as those terrible eyes froze him in their gaze. The man thought that he was surely done for but, despite the beasts' appearance, it spoke to him without using its mouth at all, but some sort of mental telepathy and said, "Don't be afraid... I will not harm you." Then it turned around and ran out the end of the barn that was facing the open, well plowed field, now muddy from the rain. It was a few moments before he could move again, he said. But at last he was able to shake his head trying to clear the vision of those red burning eyes from his mind. When he had composed himself he walked to the doorway through which the being had ran, hoping to see for the first time the creatures track in the muddy field. There were none. Red, realizing this was no 'ordinary' monster, asked the man if he thought it might come up one night and try to steal one of the children. The man replied that it was not likely, as they had been here for nearly a year already and the thing seemed content with killing their animals and merely scaring the people. But, he told him, if the creature ever did decide to do that, their would be nothing anyone in this world could do for them. They would be gone. Period. For weeks Red had kept a five gallon bucket of kerosene and a mop near the kitchen door in case the creature tried to get in and attack the members of the household. In the event that he could not drive it away with bullets or fire it was his intention of kicking the bucket of fuel over and setting it ablaze, burning the house to the ground with his whole family inside it rather than losing one or more of them to the creature and trying to live with the loss. Better, he reasoned, that they should all die and go to heaven together than trying to live without a single member of the family. All the children had agreed.

Soon after the talk with the neighbor Red and Rose gathered their children and belongings and moved back to the 'safety' of the city.

THE INTERVIEW

I interviewed the neighbor and my father's good friend in Feb., 2005. It had been 30 years since I had seen him. He was older but still pleasant, friendly, intelligent andcordial. He still lived in the same house that he lived in back then and is a God fearing Christian with no reason to lie and no want of any publicity whatsoever. After promising never to reveal his name in a public forum and, because I was Red's son, he agreed to grant me the interview and tell me 'everything' that had happened to him during and after our ordeal in 1975. What he told me about his further encounters with TSM astounded me. He claimed that he had seen the beast several more times after my family left. Moreover he said that what he had seen with his own eyes went far beyond anything that he had ever dreamed possible. One day he was walking along a field and noticed a strange area that looked like 'heat waves rising from a hot, summer road'. The area was only a few yards wide and to either side everything looked normal. As he was watching one of the creatures stepped out of this strange wavy area like stepping out a doorway. One second nothing, and the next... there it was looking right at him. It growled at him and, at the same time, screamed inside his head to 'leave me alone!' Then it turned around and took a step back into the strange looking 'doorway-and disappeared. After that he began watching the area from a distance using binoculars. In all he claimed to have witnessed several different monsters using this doorway a total of three different times, always appearing or disappearing, seemingly, into thin air. These strange creatures would then be seen crossing his own property and tripping the sensitive motion detecting security lights in his yard. His last sighting was in August of 2004. When asked if I could see the trace evidence I received another revelation. Soon after the media coverage back in '75, he said, he was visited by the state police and a couple of other men whom he took to be Federal game officials. They demanded that he turn over all evidence concerning TSM over to them immediately, which he did. Moreover they stated that if he ever talked to anyone else about the subject, especially the media, he would be arrested without hesitation and thrown into prison on a 'made up charge' and would never see his wife and two young daughters again unless it was looking at them through prison bars. In addition, a statement had been prepared for the local paper in his name stating for a fact that what he had seen was nothing more than a large, black bear. Not easily intimidated he, at first, balked at the whole thing, reasoning that this was America and his rights were being grossly violated. But the officials were very persuasive and, in the end, he had little choice but to go along with the charade for the sake of his family. Over the years he had tried to get the items back with no luck. One time he and his family came home and found a large freezer bag on the front porch. It held the remains of his plaster cast-smashed into powder. The statement was released to the local paper which proudly proclaimed the mystery of TSM solved. The hoards of monster hunters melted away leaving only the body of a dog, someone's family pet shot accidentally by local teens, behind. Everything quieted down and TSM faded into memory. The man never talked of TSM again, fearing the threats to this day as he now owns a successful business he does not wish to jeopardize. He blames the inability to speak of his encounters on a heart attack he suffered in 1985, which left him, for a brief time before he was resuscitated, clinically dead. It is also interesting to note that the entire area has a history of active UFO sightings and many houses nearby are said to be haunted on the inside as well. I know these to be true as I have lived in a couple of them myself and have seen unexplained aerial phenomena on many occasions and in the company of witnesses numerous times there.

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From the Charleston (Arkansas) Express: 10 Jan. 2006. Franklin County's Wild Crypto Zoo; by Tal H. Branco Guest Writer[Editors note: The following story was printed in an earlier edition of the Ozark Spectator, and is re-printed in the Charleston Express with permission.]

During the past four years The RFP Research Project has received numerous reports from residents of Western Arkansas concerning wild animals they have seen that did not resemble any known native or exotic species. One such report was received from a life-long resident of Franklin County in early August of this year. On August 17 the writer drove to Ozark to meet the witness. It was a coincident that Lucille Elders' Barnes News column in the Spectator that day mentioned another sighting of an enigmatic animal by a Cravens resident. Ms. Elders herself had seen one of the animals about a year ago, and wrote about the encounter in her column dated September 15, 2004. The witness the writer had arranged to meet in Ozark is Harley Edgin who lives northeast of Ozark on the north side of Highway 352. The property consists of about 200 acres which is used for cattle ranching. In the fall of 1991 Mr. Edgin and a friend were driving across the property checking on the cattle when they observed two animals standing in the field watching the vehicle. Mr. Edgin stopped the truck, and looked closely at the animals. He and his passenger had initially thought they were seeing two coyotes, but they soon realized they could not identify the animals. The animals sat down on their haunches and nonchalantly watched the vehicle for a few minutes. During that time Mr. Edgin picked up his binoculars and looked intently at both animals for a short time. He then passed the binoculars to his passenger. The animals then ran to a barbed wire fence along the north side of the pasture and stopped beside it. At that time the animals were about 100 yards from the vehicle. The animals stood for a few minutes as the witnesses alternately continued to watch them through the binoculars. After a few minutes the animals turned and ran under the fence and into the woods. Mr. Edgin stated the animals were unlike any he had ever seen. He said that one animal was about 5 inches shorter than the other, the larger being about 3 feet tall at the top of its shoulder. Both were about the color of a bobcat, with heads that seemed oversized for the bodies. The head and nose were noticeably more like a canine's than a feline's. According to Mr. Edgin the most noticeable feature on the head was the animals' ears. He stated the ears were unusually large for the size of the head. The ears were reportedly mule-like, about 6 inches long, with tufts of hair growing from their tips. He noted that the neck was

also thick and muscular. He stated the animals had tails that were catlike, but longer than a bobcat's and shorter than a cougar's. He particularly noted the tails were rounded on the ends, and not pointed like a dog's.

He said the animals possessed massive chests and very muscular front legs. Their back legs were noticeably shorter, causing the back to be sloped like that of a hyena. When the animals ran, he stated they "pushed off" using their front legs, landed on all four feet, and continued their travel in that springing fashion.

Mr. Edgin stated that on three other occasions from 1995 to 1997 he saw one of these same mysterious animals. He said that two of those sighting occurred on a tract of land south of the road from Watalua to the junction of Highway 219. On each occasion Mr Edgin was driving across the open field on that property and had a different passenger each time. Each time the occupants of the vehicle had an unobstructed view of the animal, and it appeared to match in all respects the animals previously seen by Mr. Edgin. During one of those encounters, the passenger saw the animal first and initially thought it was a deer, then decided it was a coyote, and finally decided he could not identify the animal. Mr. Edgin then attempted to run the animal down in the open field with his truck. He stated his truck came within 20 feet of the animal, but he was unable to hit it. After the animal ran away, the passenger was still in awe of what he had seen and quietly told Mr. Edgin, "There ain't nothing right about that thing."

During Mr. Edgins' third encounter with one of the unknown animals on the same property, it was standing in the edge of the woods beside the pasture. He and a passenger watched it for about three or four minutes before it walked into the woods.

Mr. Edgin left and came back with a another friend who brought along a gun. They reportedly found the animal's tracks in loose soil and leaves inside a cedar glade. The three men noted that the animals' front paws left tracks that were generally round like a cat's, and were about three inches in diameter. The back feet left similar but smaller tracks. Mr. Edgin stated the tracks were unusual in the fact that the front paw tracks were about 12 to 14 inches apart in the side-to-side direction, while the rear paw tracks were only about half that distance apart in that direction.

Mr. Edgin's last sighting of the animal occurred in 1996 or 1997 when one of the animals crossed Highway 219 in front of his truck just north of I-40. Mr. Edgin had previously arranged for the writer to meet with other area residents who have also seen animals they could not identify. The writer spent two days interviewing those witnesses. The close-up encounter that Geraldine Wyers' described was ominous and frightening. Her detailed observations portrayed an aggressive animal that has been similarly described in reports from Montgomery County Arkansas and from LeFlore and McCurtain Counties in Oklahoma. Ms. Wyers stated that in mid-summer of 1994 or 1995 she drove alone to a small branch below a stock pond dam on the parcel of land on which Mr. Edgin had previously seen two of the animals. She went to the property to destroy a beaver dam on the branch, and to attempt to kill the beavers that had built it. She said she parked her pickup truck in the edge of a field within about twenty yards of the beaver dam. When she exited the truck, she left the driver's side door open. She stated she destroyed the beaver dam and went back to the truck to get a .22 caliber, semiautomatic rifle which she loaded with ammunition. As she walked upstream away from the truck to find a place to conceal herself and wait for the beavers to return to the dam site, she heard a strange bird-like sound coming from across the branch. As she slowly walked toward the sound, she began to hear loud moaning sounds. She thought the sounds were coming from some kind of animal in great pain. As she slowly and carefully walked toward the sounds they diminished in volume. When she reached a point about 20 yards from the truck, she saw an animal crouched and watching her from the other side of the branch. She was less than 10 yards from the animal at that time. The bizarre and intimidating appearance of the animal reportedly caused her to freeze in fear. She said the animal's description generally matched those given by Mr. Edgin. She stated the animal's head was in fact massive, but it had canine upper teeth that extended two or three inches outside its mouth, and she saw blood on those teeth. She stated she could clearly see the animal was intently watching her and it was poised as if ready to spring in her direction. She had the distinct impression the animal was in no way afraid of her or the rifle. She was carrying the rifle at her hip in both hands and pointing forward. She momentarily considered drawing the gun to her shoulder and emptying the 19 shot magazine of long rifle bullets into the animal, but she quickly decided the animal was too large and too close for her to ensure she could get off enough shots to kill it before it reached her in a full charge.

She began to carefully, and very slowly, walk backwards toward the truck without taking her eyes off the animal. She was moving her feet a few inches at a time, and it seemed to her she would never reach the safety of the truck. When she finally did reach the truck, she stepped beside the opened door and slowly placed her right foot on the floor board. Only then did she briefly take her eyes off the animal to reach for the door handle. She immediately grabbed it, sat down on the seat, drew her left leg inside the cab and slammed the door shut. The second the door closed she heard and felt the animals impact against the outside of the door. She frantically started the engine and raced through the property to the main entrance gate. She opened the gate and hurriedly drove to Mr. Edgin's home, not remembering whether or not she had closed the gate to prevent the cattle from leaving the pasture. She then found the driver's side door was bent from the animal's impact.

The ferocious appearance and lack of fear of humans which Ms. Wyers observed were also noticed by an Ozark businessman who had a close encounter with one of the animals in Johnson County. The man stated he was in his pickup truck and stopped at a highway intersection north of I-40 when one of the animals walked closely past the driver's side of the truck, around the front of the truck and back down the other side. The animal reportedly stopped just past the end of the truck where it was brightly illuminated by the truck's taillights and brake lights where the driver was able to see it in his passenger side mirror. According to the driver the animal remained at the rear of the truck for nearly a minute, but it would turn its body to shield its eyes from the vehicles that were passing on the highway in front of the truck. This particular witness stated he clearly saw both upper and lower canine teeth outside the mouth of the animal. He said the animal's body

and head were massive, and the jaws appeared to be wide and powerful. He stated the top of the animal's head was just below the bottom edge of the window openings as it walked past the truck. His description of the animal generally matched those given by Ms. Wyers and Mr. Edgin, although there was one notable exception. This witness estimated the animal's weight to be close to five hundred pounds. The animals seen by the other witnesses were estimated to weigh about 250 pounds. This witness was, by his own admission, very fearful of the animal, even though he was inside his pickup with the windows up during the encounter.

On a spring day about 1991, an animal similar to the ones described by the witnesses was also seen near the Belt Cemetery north of Ozark by two local women. Ruby Tolton and a relative had gone to the cemetery to do clean-up work when they saw a deer run from the woods into an open field behind the cemetery. When the deer reached the center of the field they saw an animal burst from the woods in hot pursuit. The women were very puzzled because they could not identify the obvious predator. They could plainly see that it was not a dog or coyote, although it appeared to be some type of canine, rather than a bobcat or mountain lion.

A similar animal was seen by an employee of a local utility company when it crossed Highway 219 about three miles north of I-40. The witness stated the animal ran across the road toward the creek on the west side. The man stopped his vehicle and got out of the truck to try to get a better look at the animal. He saw it standing and watching him from about 100 yards away, but the man could not identify the animal. As he watched, the animal sped across the creek, and with apparent ease and obvious agility, scaled the steep bluff on the other side and disappeared into the woods above it.

One of the witnesses vividly recalls driving to a local farm with her small children in the 1980s to pick purple hull peas, and being told by the farmer (now deceased) to park close to the pea patch and to watch her children closely. When she asked why, he told her he had recently seen a large, aggressive animal he could not identify near the pea patch. He said the animal was intimidating and showed no fear of him.

In the Cravens area northwest of Ozark the local residents have also reported seeing an enigmatic quadrupedal animals, although the descriptions of the animals seen in that area are basically the same, the descriptions are significantly different in some respects from those previously recorded.

The most pronounced difference between the descriptions from the two areas is in the length and size of the neck, and the angle of the neck in relation to the body when the animal is standing alert.

Ms. Lucille Elders, her son and another relative who have seen the strange animals in that area at close range report that the animals' necks are disproportional long for the size of the animals' bodies. Ms. Elder's son, who saw one of the animals at night on two occasions, particularly noted that the animal's long neck was held in a very upright, and somewhat awkward looking position when the animal stood watching him. He stated the neck was very thick, and the head was "fat". He estimated the top of the animal's head was about 3 feet from the ground when it was watching him.

One resident of the Cravens area reported that the animal he saw had long ears. The animal seen by Ms. Elder was reported to have "small like ears."

Anecdotal reports from this area indicate the strange animals have been recently seen by other residents. One rancher reportedly saw such and animal resting on a hay bale in his pasture. According to some residents, these animals have been seen in the area for generations.

Based on the variations in the descriptions of the animals seen in Franklin County, it seems there are either two separate types of enigmatic animals in the area, or there is one species that manifests very unusual changes in its appearance while growing to maturity.

The animals will probably never be accurately identified - or properly classified if they are in fact an unknown species - until their DNA profile has been examined by professionals in that field. While DNA can sometimes be obtained from a wild animal without it being killed, the odds are in this case that one of the animals will be shot by a farmer or rancher, or will be run over and killed while crossing I-40. If such an event occurs, and the animal still can't be identified upon close inspection, the preserved carcass would be of great interest to science and to the world in general.

Editors note:

Tal H. Branco is a life-long resident of Arkansas and an avid outdoorsman. He learned to hunt, track and fish while a child living in the forests of South Arkansas. For over 60 years he has lived in central Arkansas. During part of that time he was trained and employed as a law enforcement officer. He received special training in Crime Scene Investigations and in the Collection and Preservation of Evidence. He was later employed for 23 years as a chemical analyst for an international corporation, and in that capacity established and supervised the operation of 5 laboratories in Brazil, 2 of which were located several hundred miles up the Amazon River. During that employment he spend his spare time hunting and fishing with the local Indians. He has hunted and fished in other countries and in numerous areas of the United States.

He has for the past 9 years served as a consultant and expert witness in an unrelated field.

In his spare time he has done professional photography for publication, written Outdoor Sports columns for newspapers and a magazine, and authored a book which was recently published by the National Consumer Law Center in Boston.

He has investigated reports of enigmatic, (unclassified), animals for nearly thirty years, and founded The RFP, (Reclusive Forest Primate), Research Project about 15 years ago to gain help in pursuing those investigations. All of the members of the group are unpaid volunteers, and all have had personal encounters with enigmatic animals.

The primary focus of his research has been on the large, hirsute bipedal primate that is commonly called "Bigfoot," or Sasquatch." He also writes a column, "The Reclusive Forest Primate Chronicles," about these animals And their encounters with people in hopes of obtaining information from readers concerning recent sightings so that those sightings can be investigated.

* "Michael Newton" eyeofnewt@att.net From Travel Blackboard (Australia): 4 Jan. 2006 Tim the Yowie Man's top Yowie hunting tips for summer. Tim the Yowie Man, expert cryptonaturalist and Australia's leading mystery investigator first spotted an unidentified big black hairy creature in 1994. Tim is not the only one to see this phenomena. There have been a large number of yowie sightings over the past 150 years. According to Tim the Yowie Man, you need to head to the high country if you wish to spot a yowie. Tim's top five yowie spotting tips Dawn and dusk are the best times of day to spot a yowie. Yowies are most often seen near waterways. Keep your eye out for footprints, but you will be more likely to see scratch marks on trees (7ft or above). Check out fences for large clumps of yowie fur. If you still can't spot a yowie, Tim recommends practicing the loud mating call of this elusive beast. You need to make a noise that is the cross between a repetitive dingo yelping and an out-of whack chainsaw. Cup your hands around your mouth for maximum projection and choose a prominent landmark like on top of a large rock to maximize your chances of luring in a Yowie. Get hunting on these trails that Tim recommends to both bush walkers and yowie enthusiasts alike:

Mount Kosciusko Sunrise Walk. "This is one walk that every Australian should do at least once in their lifetime. Walk along the rooftop of Australia as the birds wake-up. It's also gives you a chance to search for fresh yowie footprints that may have appeared overnight."

Australian Alps Walking Track. "This is THE track to hike if you want to spot a yowie - it traverses real yowie country - magnificent tall forests and stunted snow gum woodlands."

Bicentennial National Trail. "At 5330 km, incredibly this is the longest marked walking track of its kind in the world, but of course you only need to hike a couple of kilometers to brag about it."

Kosciusko Alpine Guided Walks. "If you are looking for some real adventure, but aren't too experienced when it comes to overnight hiking, this is for you! Follow the safe footsteps you guide through spectacular snowy country, indulge in fully catered overnight campsites." Watch out for yowies enjoying an early morning drink at some of the pristine glacial lakes that feature on these walks." "Oh, and yowies are nocturnal, so keep that torch (and camera!) handy to your sleeping bag.

* Sean Forker <seanforker@verizon.net>
Williamsport, Pennsylvania Jan 07, 2006 Hello Mr. Crowe, My name is Sean and I am a Sasquatch researcher/ investigator from Pennsylvania. I am a member of the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society, and a co-founder/ director of the American Bigfoot Society (2006). These groups just keep popping up! I was referred to you by my good friend Henry May. I am writing you to ask if you might have any information pertaining to an event that occurred in Pennsylvania in the 1970's.

Here is the event as it was relayed to me:At Shamokin Hospital in the 1970's, a supposed Bigfoot was taken there after it was hit by a car or truck. Nurses that worked described that the thing was extremely hairy and huge. Enter the Government. The ER Doctors and nurses were then asked by some branch of government to not disclose this with anyone. The Creature or "Hairy Man" was taken away in a van, and nothing heard of since. Stan Gordon was asked about this by PBS Researchers Pat Knetzer and Eric Altman. How we came to this report was from a lady who claimed to be the daughter of one of those ER nurses. Typically, I don't handle Third Party Accounts with little or no merit, but this one has me hooked. I think mainly because of the close proximity. Any Information would be greatly appreciated, even with the slim chances of no information. I do however personally appreciate the effort. (I'm not familiar with the report...Ray)

* From Loren Coleman Cryptozoo News
http://www.cryptomundo.com/cryptozoo-news/bfer-dies-pa/ 2006 Bigfoot Hunt Turns Tragic on Brush Mountain, Pennsylvania

Searching for Bigfoot is not a recreational activity that should be taken lightly. Near Greenwood, Pennsylvania, two individuals, Paul Diehl, 53, and Joe Quirin, 47, decided to go looking for Bigfoot on Brush Mountain. On Thursday, January 5, 2005, Mr. Diehl was found dead on an old fire trail, about a half-mile from Utah Road and LaSalle Lane.

The cause of death, at this time, has been related to alcohol-related hypothermia. Both had decided to go camping on the trail but were ill-prepared for the elements. The Logan Township area, still snow covered, reached freezing temperatures at night, and police reported the men did not take warm clothing, sleeping bags or a tent. Hunters who had seen the men on Wednesday, January 4th, were told by Diehl and Quirin that they were in the area looking for Bigfoot. They appeared to be starting a fire to keep themselves warm. Local hunters were responsible for finding them again, on the 5th of January and brought out them out. Law enforcement officials said the cold evening temperatures, coupled with the use of alcohol, led to Paul Diehl's death that Wednesday night.

Both are said to have been mentally-challenged individuals living at Blair House in Altoona.
When Quirin was found, he was incoherent, as well as suffering from hypothermia. On the 6th, he was listed in fair condition, upgraded from critical, at the Altoona Regional Health System hospital in Altoona. Information comes from a combination of reports from the Altoona Mirror, WJAC-TV news, and the Associated Press.

* Kimba D'Michi <kimbasmeow@yahoo.com>
SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China has temporarily closed parts of a nature reserve that attracts scores of people each year hunting for evidence of an ape-like Bigfoot creature, a park official said Tuesday. Sections of Shennongjia Nature Reserve will remain closed for at least three months to allow its natural attractions to recover from the wear and tear of visitors, said Wang Yong, an official from the park's tourism bureau. "During this period, we are going to do some research on how to improve the attraction of Shennongjia," said Wang. Proposals included a possible airport in the area to facilitate tourist arrivals. Located deep in the remote mountains of Hubei province, the park has long been rumoured as the home to the elusive creature known in Chinese as the "Yeren," or "Wild man." Scientists say there is no scientific evidence the creature exists, but scores of people claim to have seen it roaming the park, about 1,200 kilometres southwest of Beijing. Sightings of a similar yeti-like creature have been reported in Tibet, though its existence hasn't been proven either. China's government has previously urged tourist agencies to cut

down on creature-hunting safaris in Shennongjia, saying they were misleading and could harm the environment. However, the park itself has sought to lure tourists with a 500,000 yuan, about $60,000 US, reward for the Yeren's capture.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |

From The Times of India: 10 Jan. 2006 Bigfoot: Nothing concrete yet. NEW DELHI: There is already a growing body of pointers that we share this planet with a large, bi-pedal creature, sighted but not photographed. Along with what scientists claim are "DNA evidence", amazing photos of footprints and increased sightings, there is now more hope than ever that new high-tech detection methods would bring us closer to the primate who may in the final analysis resemble humans more than anything else. In early April, 2001, British scientists made a startling announcement. After examining the DNA in a strand of hair thought to come from a Yeti, the Asian cousin to America's Bigfoot, scientists were unable to identify it as coming from any known animal. And whether they are a kind of ape or are more closely related to humans or something in between is unknown.

Some years ago, a long black strand of hair found in the mountains of Bhutan was examined by British scientists. The tall, hairy creature is believed by many locals to inhabit the forests and mountains of Bhutan, where it is called the Migyur. The British scientists were led to this particular tree by Sonam Dhendup, the kingdom's official Yeti hunter. Some of the hair was taken back to the UK for DNA testing. Bryan Sykes, professor of human genetics at the Oxford Institute of Molecular Medicine and one of the world's leading experts on DNA analysis examined the hair. "We found some DNA in it," he said, "but we don't know what it is. It's not a human, not a bear and not anything else we have so far been able to identify. It's a mystery and I never thought this would end in a mystery. We have never encountered DNA that we couldn't recognize before."

To top it authorities began searching the jungles of southern Malaysia for the mythical "Bigfoot". It followed a reported sighting of three Giant human-like beasts, officials said. A report said that wildlife authorities may put cameras in the Endau Rompin National Park in Johor state find out if the creatures do exist. Park director Hashim Yusof ventured into the jungle the same day to survey the site where three fish farm workers reportedly saw the beasts two adults and a young one last month, Hashim's secretary said, who did not to be named and declined to give details. The fish farm workers were in the jungle to clear an area for a fish pond. They alerted their employer who photographed what appeared to be footprints measuring up to 17 inches, said Lim Teong Kheng, chairman of the Malaysian Nature Society in Johor. He said brown hair reeking of body odor was also reportedly retrieved nearby, and a broken tree branch at the site appeared to indicate the creatures were some 10 feet tall.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |

From the Inverness Courier: 10 Jan. 2006

Good year on Nessie trail - four sightings! NESSIE may only have poked her head out of water a handful of times but it was enough to see 2005 hailed as a good year for sightings with the first unexplained pictures of an object in the loch since 2001. It took until August for any credible sightings to be reported, but the four reports over three months led Loch Ness Monster Fan Club president Gary Campbell to comment: "Overall it was a good year for sightings. "Although there were only four, all of them appear bona fide and at least one had pictures to back it up. These were the first unexplained pictures taken at the loch for about four years."

The sightings reported in 2005 were: Thursday, 11th August - Nigel Bell and his family from Newcastle watched what they described as the head of a large animal move through the loch at 6pm. The family, who were on the veranda of a holiday lodge at Foyers at the time, said that the head was larger than that of a cow and was about a third of the way across the loch. Regular visitors to the area, they were convinced what they had seen was not the result of a boat wake or wave movement.

Sunday, 28th August - Kelly Yeats and Neil McKenzie, from Bridge of Dee,
were staying at Foyers Bay House when they saw a "long-necked, curved headed" creature in the loch at 8.30am. The sighting lasted 10 minutes.

Friday 9th September - A retired Master Mariner was cruising just south of Urquhart Bay in a Caley Cruisers' boat at a speed of nine knots when it was overtaken by an unknown object which came between them and the south shore. The sighting lasted several minutes and the object only disappeared as the boat moved towards it. A regular boat user on the loch, the captain said that there was no rational explanation for the object, which was unlike anything any of the boat's occupants had seen before.

Saturday, 15th October - Robbie Girvan, owner of the Loch Ness Caravan Park at Invermoriston, took five pictures of what he described as a fourft high head and neck at 6pm when he was walking his dogs by the loch shore. He said he saw a long neck come out of the water and had time to return to the house, get his camera, and return to take the pictures. Previously a nonbeliever, he said the "dark green and silvery" creature could only have been Nessie.

Meanwhile, documents released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal how, in 1985, civil servants examined ways of protecting the loch's best-known inhabitant from monster hunters. The 1985 Conservative Government may not have admitted to being Nessie believers, but documents laws have revealed how the move was prompted by Swedish officials who were considering how they could protect their equivalent of Nessie, the Lake Storsjo monster.

In August 1985, the British Embassy in Stockholm wrote to the permanent under-secretary at the Scottish Office, apologetically stating: "I am sorry to bother you with an inquiry which will, no doubt, be greeted at first glance with gales of laughter."

The writer went on to point out the inquiry was a serious one, however, and explained the Swedes wanted assistance in drawing up legislation to protect the Storsjo monster. The inquiry led to an exchange of letters between Government departments. One Scottish Office official wrote:

"The protection of this putative denizen of the deep deserves serious consideration." However, a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries official commented: "There is, of course, another part to the question and that is measures to protect man from Nessie, however, past history indicates

...at Nessie's tastes do not extend to homo sapiens." Eventually, after taking advice from the Nature Conservancy Council, the Scottish Development Department concluded Nessie would be protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and sent a letter to that effect to the UK's Stockholm Embassy.

They added: "We should certainly welcome teams of Swedish scientists, amateur and professional, bent on establishing Nessie's identity, and I can assure them that there is ample accommodation in the Highlands and plentiful supplies of the national beverage which will help them to see her in the dark."

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>

From Black Press (Victoria, B.C.): 2 Jan. 2006

Sasquatch search takes a big foot forward

(Black Press) - Gerry Matthews wants the world to know that both "sensible and skeptical" people can be involved in the hunt for the elusive sasquatch. The Chilliwack man says he's been fascinated by the topic since he was a kid but it took a pivotal discussion with Harrison sasquatch writer-researcher John Green a couple of years ago to set him firmly on his new path.

"It was an inspiration meeting John Green," says Matthews, who calls himself a "newcomer" among bigfoot enthusiasts. He's part of a trio heading up the West Coast contingent of serious seekers, like Mission-based investigator Thomas Steenburg and Ken Kristian. Matthews admits to still being somewhat skeptical over what is considered "evidence" by some cryptozoologists and researchers, but he felt a strong need to bring together the key people and report sightings from this part of the continent.

"I think there's some evidence that can't be denied," he says. "It can't be explained but it can't be denied either. Of all the thousands of reports made, even it one is true, that's really something. They can't all be hoaxes."

As the founder of West Coast Sasquatch, he's been busy almost full-time,uploading searcher interviews, frequently asked questions, artwork and moderating the lively discussion forum on his site at www.westcoast sasquatch.com."I built the site to be a gateway of information," he says. "I'm just speaking up for this part of the country. It's so rich in the whole bigfoot heritage." It all started out as a hobby but it's certainly morphed into more in recent months. "I could devote almost 12 hours a day to it if I wanted to," he offers. "My wife doesn't know what to think about it, but she see it as harmless and it keeps me out of trouble." The Internet has scores of sites devoted to the hunt of the famed woodland ape but the retired telecommunications worker says there was nothing significant out there in the way of websites emanating from B.C. That's why he started his own site in March.

"The general public has this impression that we're a bunch of nuts running around in the woods scaring wildlife, and some of them surely are," he says. "But I want to show that there are sensible and skeptical people involved in the search. "These are people who are immensely curious and believe there's enough evidence out there to warrant a serious looking into." Plus the Upper Fraser Valley is considered prime sasquatch territory, with famous sightings at Harrison Lake, Chilliwack Lake, Chehalis, Ruby Creek and more. A perusal of the Agassiz phone book provides a gaggle of businesses that have adopted the theme such as Sasquatch Inn, Sasquatch Springs RV Resort, Sasquatch Tours, Bigfoot Camp-grounds, Big Food Café and Bigfoot Plumbing and Heating. "A great many sightings have come from this area over the decades especially on the other side of the river. That's why we'll be concentrating our search in the Harrison Lake area," he said.The plan is to attack the lake from the water and Matthews hopes to launch a boat next spring."What we're hoping to achieve is getting some video on the subject," he says. "Because randomly running around in the woods looking for a creature is ludicrous. It has to be done in a scientific manner." The goal is to get some video or a sighting that could ultimately establish if the animals are transients or resident to the area. The last reported sighting of a bigfoot creature in Chilliwack was in 1999 in the Cultus Lake/Vedder Mountain area, he said. And Harrison Lake was reported as a site where three of the hairy beasts were seen last year this time, Matthews adds. "There are lots of questions and very few answers," he says. "I've studied what's out there. There's a lot of bull. That's why I built the website, to put up the material that has convinced me and to add my version, which is accurate if anyone wants to look into it."

* Larry Lund <sasqsleuth@msn.com>

Bigfoot sighted in village in 1900s

New Straits Times, KOTA TINGGI, Jan 7:

More documented information about the Bigfoot of Johor has come to light in the wake of renewed interest in the Malaysian equivalent of the abominable snowman. The annals of Kampung Mawai, compiled by generations of headmen at the village, talk of the existence of the creature. The Sejarah Mawai Lama Sebelum dan Selepas Perang Dunia Ke-2 relates how the pioneer settlers of the village named it "Mawai" after seeing hairy creatures which they referred to as "Mawas". Biodiversity researcher Vincent Chow said a group of explorers from Jambi in Indonesia had, in the early 1900s, encountered the hairy creatures where the village now stands.

Their leader, Mohamad Jambi, related that the creature took refuge under a palm tree called daun payung when it rained. Mohamad Jambi, who was later made the penghulu of Mukim Ulu Sedili by Sultan Ibrahim, decided to build a village using the daun payung and named it Kampung Mawas. Over time, it became known as Kampung Mawai. According to the historical account, villagers who went to collect rattan along rivers deep in the jungle often sighted the creatures. The villagers had observed that the creature always dwelt near rivers or streams where it hunted mouse deer and jungle fowl. They also observed that the Mawas would bring food to water to wash off the blood.

Meanwhile, Chow said he was contacted yesterday by the Korean Broadcasting Agency which expressed interest in doing a documentary on Bigfoot.

"I will be forwarding this message to State Tourism and Environment Committee chairman Freddie Long."

Interest in Bigfoot was sparked when three workers building a fish pond in the village claimed they had seen a family of two adults and a child.

A member of the Johor Malaysian Nature Society carrying out a fish survey nearby took photographs of the footprints measuring about 45cm long besides observing that the creature was about three metres tall. Earlier the Singapore media, British Broadcasting Corporation and Reuters had shown interest in the Bigfoot sightings and efforts to track the creature. In Muar last night, Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek urged the Johor Government to solve the mystery of the Bigfoot sightings.

He said the recent sightings, which were given wide publicity in the media, would boost Johor's tourism industry. Dr Chua said he used to receive numerous reports of Bigfoot sightings.

* "Michael Newton"<eyeofnewt@att.net>
From KLAS-TV, Channel 8 (Las Vegas, NV): 21 Dec. 2005
Las Vegas Based Scientists Study 'Skinwalker Ranch'

A team of scientists based in Las Vegas has been conducting a study that may be different from anything that's ever been tried. The research is focused on a ranch in rural Utah where, for 50 years or more, paranormal activity has been reported, including UFOs, Bigfoot, mutilated animals and poltergeists. Some call the place Skinwalker Ranch, and George Knapp of the I-Team is the only journalist allowed to visit the property. Oil executive Gregory Todd is one of the hundreds, if not thousands of northeastern Utah residents who've seen weird objects -- call them UFOs -- over their homes in the past 50 years. The Utah basin has also been a hotbed of other strange activity including Bigfoot encounters and mutilated animals. In a basin known for an array of unexplained phenomena, the epicenter of high strangeness seems to be a picturesque spread known to many as Skinwalker Ranch. Native Americans who live near the property advise members to steer clear because, they say, this is the path of the skinwalker, an evil force. The last family to live on this spread lasted only 20 months. From the first day back in 1994, they were terrorized by an unseen intelligence that played mind games with them, shadowy figures inside their house, objects that moved on their own, disembodied voices and bad things happening to their animals beginning with cattle and bulls that disappeared and others that were carved up with surgical precision in broad daylight. A gigantic wolf that attacked one of their calves was tracked through the mud, but the tracks simply stopped as if the animal had evaporated into thin air. Three dogs were vaporized after while chasing blue orbs of light in a pasture. In 1995, the ranch came to the attention of NIDS, the National Institute for Discovery Science based in Las Vegas. NIDS bought the property and began an unprecedented scientific study. Observation posts were built. Video cameras were installed and operated. Scientific personnel and former lawmen were on the property 24-7 for 8 straight years. Dr. Colm Kelleher headed up the NIDS study. Dr. Colm Kelleher said, "We probably have, if you count all the pre-NIDS and post-NIDS incidents, close to 100 different incidents. If you look at all of them, the one thing that jumps out is how unreproducible they are." In other words, nothing ever happened the same. The scientists would spend all night out in the darkness and witnessed dozens of UFOs and odd balls of light. They also encountered large unknown

panther, population around 100. But those who truly understand the woods and know where to look have discovered the footprints of these animals, their hair, scat, denning areas, their kills-and certainly not least, the animals themselves, both live in their habitat and dead on the highways that are ever a greater problem for all wildlife in the state. If there were large creatures as yet unknown to science, it is highly likely some hunter somewhere would have reported one. They do see bears with surprising frequency, and panthers on rare occasions. And sasquatches, unlike bears and panthers, are not on the protected list. Someone very likely would have shot one-unwisely, to be sure, since it might very well be like the last passenger pigeon or the last dodo bird.

And if not the hunters themselves, their trail cameras would by now have given evidence; hundreds of hunters now mount automatic cameras in the woods to discover the passage of trophy deer, and these motion-sensitive devices certainly would have caught Ol Skunky in a grip-and-grin moment by now. In short, it is probably as likely that you will see Santa Claus coming down your chimney in the next few weeks as you will see the skunk ape stalking across a marshy pond somewhere off a sandy backroad where the condos have not yet been built quite yet. But it's definitely fun to think you might.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>
Tampa (FL) Tribune: 14 Dec. 2005; Don't Buy Into Skunk Ape Tale, FRANK SARGEANT

It's fun to think that there might be undiscovered creatures in the woods and waters of Florida, or anywhere else, for that matter. The unknown is a delicious possibility. And of course, nothing can be proven not to exist. But when it comes to skunk apes, sasquatches, big foots, abominable snowmen - it's just not happening, no matter how many bogus "investigators" go trampling through the woods in search of fodder for yet another book to be sold to the ever gullible. And no, I'm not forgetting the coelacanth, an allegedly extinct fish that now has been discovered to be fairly common in the depths off some parts of Africa and India. Nor the existence of the Yahi tribe of Native Americans in northern California, completely hidden from the civilized world for some 40 years after they were thought to have vanished. The last of them, Ishi, survived until 1916. But particularly in the U.S., the odds of a breeding population of gorilla-sized mammals living in complete secrecy is virtually zero. In Florida, don't even bother to think about it. There is nowhere in the state that has not been thoroughly trod by man, and there simply is no credible evidence of the skunkeroo - zero, zilch, not a hair, not a footprint.

SQUATCH, MASCOT AT SEATTLE SONICS BASKETBALL GAME

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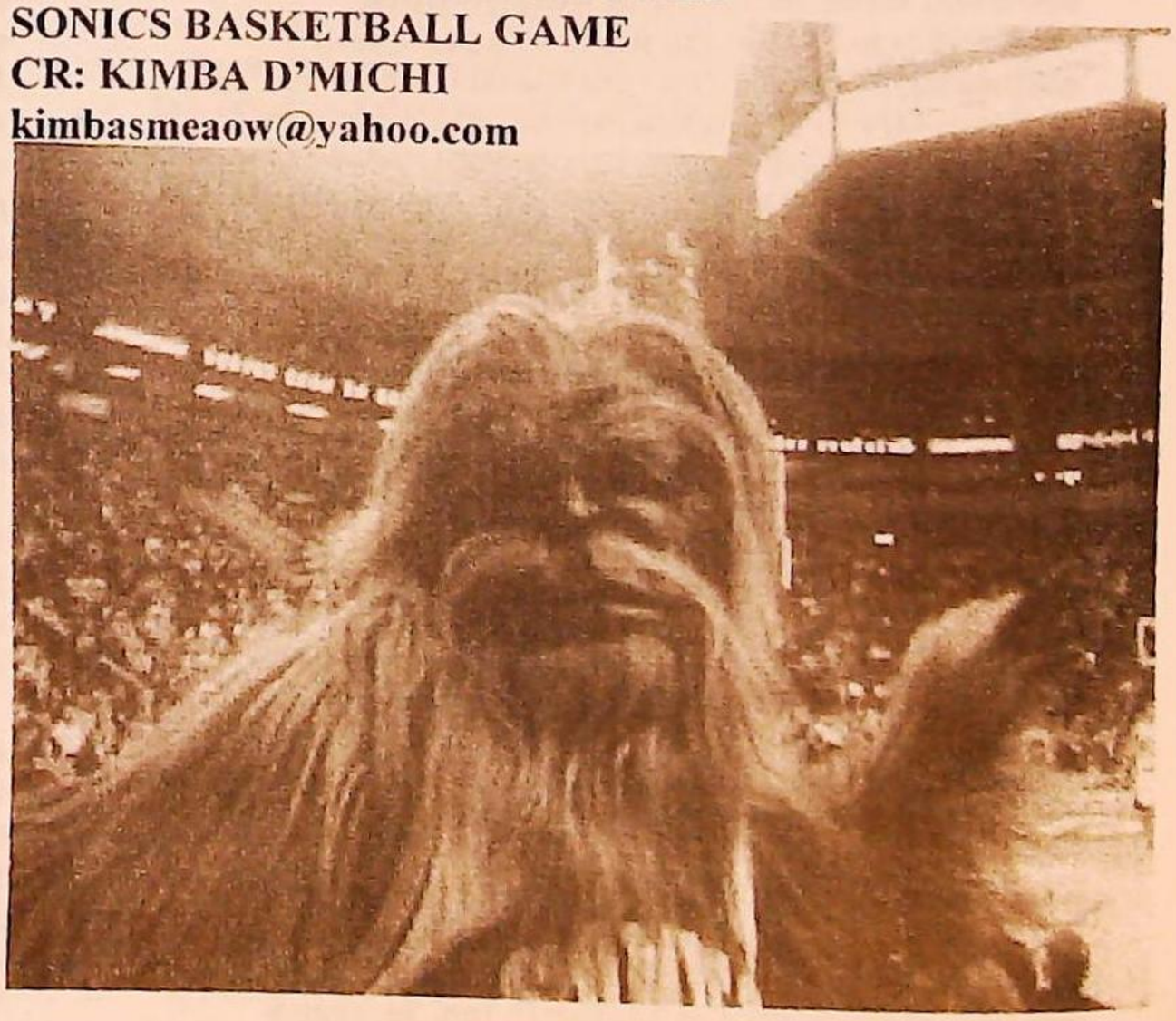

FLORIDA TODAY
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AP photos

Ape perch. Dave Shealy spends many evenings perched on the shoulders of a concrete skunk ape replica, hoping that someone will pull over off U.S. 41 to ask him about his skunk ape sightings in Ochopee. Shealy, unofficial mayor of Ochopee, with a population of 11, has devoted three decades to proving the existence of the Florida skunk ape.

Skunk ape legend continues

It's not a man in a monkey suit, Ochopee's unofficial mayor says

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OCHOPEE — David Shealy's life mission is singular, a little lonely, and sometimes jinxes him with the ladies. None of this may be surprising, given that for more than a decade Shealy has tried to convince the world that outsized, lumbering ape-men call the Everglades home.

"It opens up a whole Pandora's box," Shealy, 41, conceded one recent sweltering morning as the sun made soup out of the air in Ochopee, a blip of a town in Big Cypress National Preserve, 30-odd miles west of the Miami-Dade County line.

Shealy is the self-appointed world expert on the Florida skunk ape, a legendary seven-foot-tall mangy creature and presumable cousin of Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yowie, the Abominable Snowman, el Chupacabra, Harry of Hendersons fame and possibly Chewbacca the Wookiee.

The skunk ape, alias swamp ape, apparently smells like bad eggs and goat dung, an odor attributed to its poor bathing habits and penchant for sulfurous alligator caves. Tales of its existence percolated in Everglades City and go back more than 100 years, with various people — including a busload of highly excited British tourists who swore the creature revealed itself to them in 1997 — finding massive footprints and claiming sightings.

But Shealy, tall, lanky and goateed, a man rarely seen without his snakebite-proof boots, is the first to make the Florida skunk ape a full-time, if struggling, business. He guesses about seven apes wander about Florida, with Miami-Dade's expansion flushing them his way.

Big footprint. A plaster mold of the skunk ape's footprint is shown in Ochopee. The most recent sighting was September.

"I don't have a choice to believe because I've seen him three times," said Shealy, blue eyes a-twinkle beneath the brim of his gator-tooth-embossed, black leather outback hat.

Shealy sells skunk ape ball caps, camouflage T-shirts and bumper stickers in the curio shop run by his brother, Jack, at the pair's dusty, sprawling campground in Ochopee on the Tamiami Trail. He hosts a somewhat annual Skunk Ape Festival, replete with bands and hippies. He talks the creature up on local radio. He thinks the skunk ape legend could bolster tourism for Collier County, and once convinced its Tourist Development Council to part with $44,000 for a skunk ape hunting expedition, a plan the County Commission shot down.

"It serves the tourist promotion business best as legend," Jim Coletta, a county commissioner, wrote in a solemn consolation letter.

Shealy's efforts drum up a mixed local response. ■

SASQUATCH HUNTER

BY WARREN WARSAW
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Sub-freezing temperatures made the Dismal Swamp more foreboding than usual. But Travis McHenry climbed from his sporty 1995 green BMW 318i, energized for another hunt through the gloomy and mysterious woods.

Unarmed yet unafraid in his combat books, leather jacket and fedora à la Indiana Jones, the 24-year-old Norfolk resident wasn't there to glimpse river otters and warblers. He was scouting for more elusive quarry - something he's never seen.

Bigfoot.

After just five minutes of sifting through broken branches, McHenry knew what he had to do.

Leave the well-worn paths and step into the tangled overgrowth.

Bigfoot isn't easy to catch.

After all, there are only 2,000 Bigfoot creatures in the United States, with just two to five of them in the Dismal Swamp, according to McHenry.

In the Dismal Swamp and in his native Pennsylvania, McHenry has spent more than 100 days and nights the past seven years investigating weird-looking impressions made in the mud and pondering puzzling clues. It's all in an effort to find the giant ape-like beast that's become a legend in the Pacific Northwest and more recently has been reported in Virginia and other mid-Atlantic states.

McHenry is zero-for-100.

But he doesn't despair. All his life, he's found the journey more important than the prize.

As for straying from beaten paths, that's McHenry too. He doesn't take the road less traveled; he goes where there are no roads.

His passion for tracking Bigfoot began under wilder circumstances.

"A friend of mine in Pennsylvania and I watched the 1976 movie, 'Creature From Black Lake,' I was obsessed with the idea that another creature could be out there," McHenry said.

The two of them decided to begin their quest at the friend's grandmother's house, in the Bloomsburg area, where McHenry grew up.

Why there?

Well, said McHenry: "She smelled sulfur. It's a scent associated with Bigfoot sightings. During the night, we heard her cows mooing like crazy. Something was out there but we saw nothing."

The first of many disappointments hunting Sasquatch.

Once in early spring, he spent 18 hours alone in a north central Pennsylvania state park.

"I've found footprints on about 15 occasions and I've heard what sounded like an owl hooting in the middle of the day. A few times, I've heard crashing sounds too loud to be made by any common woods animal," he said.

According to McHenry, each of these phenomena could be explained independently, but together they point to Bigfoot.

"People have seen Bigfoot. Just not any scientists. All I'm saying is that it merits further investigation," he said.

McHenry said he believes that Bigfoot creatures are descended from Gigantopithecus, a large prehistoric primate found in Asian fossils and considered to be extinct. But some survived, he said, and spread to North America over an ancient land bridge from Siberia to Alaska.

He likens the survival of Gigantopithecus to the coelacanth, a fish that scientists thought extinct for more than 65 million years until discovered in 1938.

McHenry said his penchant for detective work serves him in his naval intelligence career as in his Bigfoot pursuits.

"I've trained myself to know what to look for in the woods. I can tell the difference between bark torn off by deer antlers versus bark torn off by other means," he said.

On one occasion in Pennsylvania, he found pieces of bark draped over a deciduous tree. Those pieces were not from any tree indigenous to that area, and it appeared to McHenry that it was some sort of territory marker.

Said Cathryn McHenry: "I always just threw Bigfoot into the same category as unicorns and the Boogie Man. In other words, they make good movies. So at first I thought it was ridiculous and I would find myself getting into debates about why Bigfoot could not possibly exist."

Then, in September, McHenry invited her to the annual East Coast Bigfoot Conference in Pennsylvania, south of Pittsburgh. He was one of the main speakers, talking about Gigantopithecus.

"Once you listen to enough people who have dedicated their lives to something they wholeheartedly believe in, it's difficult to refute every shred of evidence they have gathered," Cathryn McHenry said. "Over time, I realized that there's no reason Bigfoot could not exist."

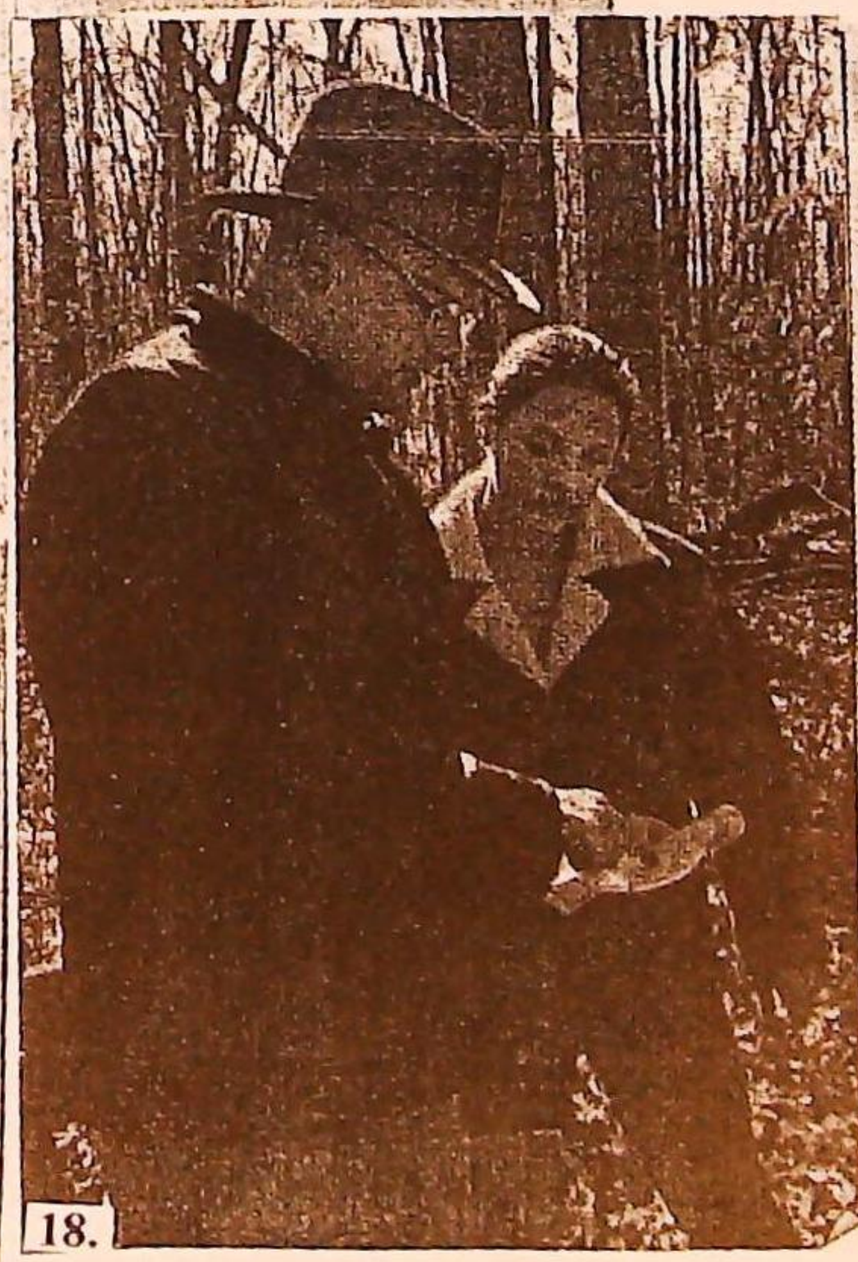
She was hooked.

"A week after our wedding," he said, "we went to the Northwest River and we both heard some strange crashes in the woods."

While his wife shares his interest in Bigfoot, she doesn't share his intensity. Not yet, she said, adding: "But I'm getting there"

Travis McHenry has spent 7 years investigating weird-looking impressions made in the mud and pondering puzzling clues

CR: BILL DRAGANIS



Travis McHenry and his wife, Cathryn, look over the map of Northwest River Park in Chesapeake to decide which trail might lead to evidence of Bigfoot on a recent Saturday. McHenry, who lives in Norfolk, has been looking for the elusive beast for about seven years, in his native Pennsylvania and, now, here.

TO FIND OUT MORE

Travis McHenry is the administrator of Web site **www.para-normal.org**